

someone because of sexual orientation or gender identity.

When we declared our independence from Great Britain back in 1776, our Founders stated:

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal. . . .

Of course, I would add women to that. But equality under the law is part of our national creed. We have an opportunity this week to take another step forward in advancing equal opportunity for all. Let's pass the Employment Non-Discrimination Act with a very strong bipartisan majority. I hope we will do that. I hope we will do it this week.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO MAYOR EVA GALAMBOS

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, I rise for a moment, the day after elections all over the country, to pay tribute to a great Georgian.

Yesterday, November 5, 2013, the city of Sandy Springs elected a new mayor by the name of Rusty Paul. But Rusty was elected to succeed Eva Galambos, the first and only mayor of Sandy Springs, GA—an outstanding citizen of our State and a real representative of what it is about to be a good citizen of Georgia.

For 30 years she chaired a committee called the Committee for Sandy Springs, from 1975 until 2005. That committee was a committee of community members in an unincorporated area who wanted to have their own city, their own government, and they wanted to privatize government.

They tried for 30 years to get the State legislature—for 20 of those years I was a part of that legislature—to approve a municipal charter for Sandy Springs. Finally, in 2004, the legislature did. In 2005, it was ratified by the voters of Sandy Springs and the voters of the city of Atlanta, and Sandy Springs became a city.

Because Eva had chaired the committee to make it a city for 30 years, she was selected as its first mayor and served in that capacity for 8 outstanding years. A city that was a typical urban sprawl, suburban sprawl city, she turned into one of the prettiest places in Georgia. She beautified the streets, put in streetscapes, easements for beautification.

Today, we have a beautiful linear park on the most major road that goes through Sandy Springs, on Johnson Ferry Road and Abernathy—a linear park where people are able to enjoy a park and have a buffer from a highway,

yet improved traffic flowing through that community.

That was just one of many things she did in innovative ways to make it a better community.

Eva is a great citizen. She has a wonderful husband, three great children, six great grandchildren, but her seventh grandchild is the city of Sandy Springs. She birthed it. She led it. She grew it. At the end of this year she will leave it as its mayor, but she will always be there as its leading citizen.

So I rise today on the floor of the Senate to pay tribute to Eva Galambos for doing the American dream—having a dream, 30 years working to achieve it, and at the end of those 30 years then leading it to become what she always hoped it could be: a great city, the city of Sandy Springs, GA.

I yield back the remainder of my time.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I be recognized for up to 8 minutes, followed by Senator BALDWIN.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

EMPLOYMENT NON-DISCRIMINATION ACT

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I rise today to urge my colleagues to vote for ENDA, the Employment Non-Discrimination Act. This bill is about basic fairness, and it is really about the Golden Rule—treating others as you would like to be treated. Every single American should have the right to earn a living and provide for his or her family without fearing discrimination in the workplace because of who they are and whom they love. Americans like Marty Edwards, an assistant vice president of First National Bank of Granbury, Texas, whose story was recently featured in *The Advocate*. Marty was passed over for promotions at work despite a very strong 11-year history at the bank. When he asked for an explanation from his vice president and human resources department, he was told that the workers who had received the promotion were “a better fit for the image we are looking for.” Marty Edwards was hired by the bank right out of college. He formed his professional identity there. He was moving up the ladder until he came out as a gay man. When Edwards asked whether his sexual orientation was the main reason he had been denied promotion, the bank's executive vice president demanded his resignation. Edwards refused, and then he was fired.

Sadly, Marty Edwards' story is not unique. Between 15 and 43 percent of

LGBT people have experienced discrimination in the workplace or harassment in the workplace as a result of their sexual orientation. Twenty-six percent of transgender people report having been fired from their jobs because of their gender identity, and 90 percent reported experiencing harassment, mistreatment, or discrimination.

Our fellow citizens need ENDA. I was here when ENDA was voted on so many years ago when it was a Ted Kennedy bill. We did not make it then, but I think we are going to make it now because Americans know that ENDA is the right thing to do. As a matter of fact, 80 percent of Americans assume there already is a law prohibiting discrimination against this community. But more than half of Americans still live in States where it is perfectly legal to fire a lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender American just because of their sexual orientation or gender identity. So that is why we need this bill. There are many States where there is no protection. This bill would make sure the protections are nationwide.

Seventy percent of the American public supports ENDA. According to the Washington Post, public support ranges from a high of 81 percent in Massachusetts to a low of 63 percent in Mississippi. So it is clear that the support cuts across party affiliation and generational gaps. Whether they are a Democrat, a Republican, an Independent, whether they are a libertarian, whether they are young or old, Americans overwhelming support this bill. The American people are basically giving us a message: This is a no-brainer. We should not have to fight about it. We should just vote for it.

That is why I was so dismayed to read that House Speaker BOEHNER said he would not support ENDA. His reason was that it will increase litigation. Does the Speaker really think that LGBT Americans, who have families to support and bills to pay, would rather pursue frivolous lawsuits than earn their pay in a workplace free of harassment and discrimination?

Here is what I think is really disingenuous about that. Republicans do not suggest that all the other groups covered by the Civil Rights Act are filing frivolous lawsuits. In other words, all the rest of Americans who are protected because of their religion, because of their color, because of their creed, Speaker BOEHNER says they are not filing frivolous lawsuits and he does not want to repeal the civil rights of those people. Good. Why does he think that the LGBT community is going to file frivolous lawsuits?

I have to say that evidence shows what he is saying is false. The Speaker ignores the fact that the Government Accountability Office issued a recent report showing that in the 22 States that banned sexual orientation discrimination in the workplace, “there were relatively few employment discrimination complaints based on sexual orientation and gender identity